

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
"Agricolos." . . . VIRG.

VOL. II.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1820.

NUM. 2.

AGRICULTURE.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, IN DELAWARE.

[Continued from Vol. II. page 3.]

It will be impossible for any one to read this essay, and possess one drop of farmer's blood, without feeling it start in every vein, and flush him with the expectation of realizing the promise of the essayist; in other words an estate: and it will add in no small degree to this pleasure, to find that it may be done by his own personal exertions, and that it will be a progressive thing; allowing him the enjoyment of every grade between. He is not called upon to suffer till he enters on the threshold of fortune; like the poor man, who in his last days draws a lottery prize; not like the merchant, who at one moment is elevated like his bark to the skies, and then plunged into a fearful abyss.—This essay is recommended not only for perusal, but for practice. Knowing the temper of many, we undertake to inform; that the first disappointment seen or experienced, will drive them back to the old beaten path, we therefore, have ventured to qualify some things, and to correct what appears to be erroneous or too sanguine.

As to the intrinsic value of land, it should probably be restricted to the article as it is found without regard to further improvements, and then plenty or scarcity, would regulate its value as it does silver and gold. If too low, it would bring forth the speculator, for where speculation ends, there intrinsic value begins.

The Speculator makes all comparison, marks the grades of improvement, and keeps the price current in his pocket: in evidence of this scheme, it may be remarked that poor land is plenty and cheap, good farming land rare and dear, and when land is plenty, it will always bear a relation to the lowest state of improvement, and so of other articles: in like proportion governed in their price by the same principles.

It would therefore appear, that we are called upon to read an essay on the intrinsic value of successful farming, and the method annexed.

The intrinsic part of the business, relating more to the labour and capital, than the land.

Editor of the American Farmer.

In the Pamphlet before the Essay, is prefixed the following NOTE.

If the term "intrinsic," used in the Resolution of this Society, as applicable to the value of arable land, be construed strictly, it might lead to an endless variety of conjectures, and calculations, without it being possible ever to arrive at any certain point. The positive, or intrinsic worth of land, thus understood, must have reference to a period when the greatest possible population shall exist upon the earth, and when this population in order to live, shall be brought to subsist on the smallest possible quantum of produce. The number of domestic animals must then be apportioned according to the actual necessities of this population, and the people divided, and a due share allotted to the different pursuits which might then be necessary in society. We should after this be obliged to ascertain the actual quantity of land on the globe, with all its varieties of soil, situation, and seasons, under the influence of different climates; and upon these, together with a variety of other circumstances, as data, found our calculations as to markets, and the then worth of money, and consequently of land.

This society never could have intended to invite such visionary, and useless inquiries. To promote the success of agriculture, by directing the land-holder to the real worth of his land: and to persuade him, if possible, rather to improve and enjoy his treasure, than to suffer it, ignorant of its worth, to pass into the hands of land speculators, who in the nature of things cannot, or will not improve it either for their own benefit or for that of society; seemed to me, to have been the real designs of the inquiry proposed.—I have accordingly, not ventured to travel beyond our own time and country, in my estimates. My object is to shew what our land is actually worth to us, at the present day, leaving every thing which may be prospective, and consequently uncertain, to other inquirers.

"AN ESSAY,"

"On the intrinsic value of arable land;" with some general remarks on the science of Agriculture; submitted to the "Committee of examiners," and through them to the "Agricultural Society of the County of New-Castle." By S. H. BLACK, a resident member.

In submitting a few reflections on the subject of land, and the most profitable mode of cultivating it; if my ideas should appear novel, and at first view seem useless, I yet trust confidently, that I shall not, by this society, composed as I find it, entirely of scientific and practical farmers, as well as men of liberal and enlightened minds, be hastily condemned as a visionary theorist, or as one who writes from selfish motives, or for want merely of some other employ.—My time is fully occupied without any such amusement; nor do I write at any time for pecuniary reward. Whatever may be thought of my opinions, I assure this honourable society, that my sentiments on land, and farming, have not been hastily formed; nor are they now offered, from any but the most laudable motives: nothing but the fullest conviction of their truth, and an earnest hope that they may prove useful to society, could have drawn them forth. I wish only that before they are condemned, or neglected, every agriculturist may square them carefully by the rule of experiment, and plumb them with the line of reason: I shall not then, fear the result of public or private opinion.

As these remarks are written in the state of Delaware, so are they adapted more especially, to the climate, soil, sources of manure, and habits of farming, of that state. The reasoning however, and the conclusions for the most part, may be found to apply with nearly the same force in many of the Atlantic, and in some of the interior states; certain local circumstances, within the knowledge of every man of common observation, will readily enable him to make the necessary allowance in the calculations, and in the experiments.

Whatever diversity of opinion may prevail on the subject of farming and on the value of land, that both at present amongst us, are in the most melancholy and wretched state of depression, will, I think, be readily admitted by all; that crops of every kind, have of late years, almost totally failed; and that, to the laborious husbandman, scarce a single hope seems left at which he can grasp to encourage him to new efforts, needs no argument to prove; this gloomy truth is felt, and admitted in every sphere of life, from the pauper in the poor-house, to the most wealthy man in the state. Many, however, attribute this melancholy failure to almost every other, than the true cause—the seasons, the climate, the Hessian-fly, the stunt, the louse, the grub, the clay and the sand, with an endless variety of other imaginary evils, have alternately been cursed as the bane of the farmer. The tiller of the ground has perhaps hardly dreamed, that

in execrating the cause of his ill success, he but calls for the vengeance of Heaven on his own head. All these plagues are but the symptoms, and not as he may have supposed, the cause of his misfortunes. If a man imprudently commits himself, in a crazy bark to the ocean, and is wrecked in a storm, the elements are not in fault; the wind would have blown, and the billows been agitated with the same violence if he had been in another hemisphere. When Robinson Crusoe became sick, and his fire had exhausted its last supply of fuel, it expired by an immutable law of nature; and he thus lost his chief comfort; yet under such circumstances who would think of attaching blame to the wood standing at a distance on Crusoe's island; to the element fire, or to the air necessary for combustion?

The God of Nature, in creating the world, has given with it every thing necessary for the existence and comfort of man; nor has this immense variety of creation been left to the caprice of any finite being, or to the uncertain government of chance; certain effects inevitably follow certain causes, by a system of laws fixed, and unalterable as the foundations of the earth; and to man, a mind has been given capable of comprehending these laws: by reason he may trace effects to causes; and by his judgment apply the result to his own benefit. If he could not do this, he would be unfortunate: if he will not do it, he is wicked, and deserves to suffer.

Of all the immense variety of pursuits in life, farming, properly conducted, is the most ancient, the most honourable, the most healthy, and the most independent. Since the commencement of time upon earth, agriculture has been common amongst mankind: as far back as history or tradition reaches, man appears to have been engaged in wringing his sustenance from the soil: and through all the revolutions and vicissitudes of time, husbandry seems never once to have been lost sight of; in fact it could not, for upon it as a basis rests the very existence, as well as comforts of civilized man. It is honourable on account of its antiquity, and it is more honourable on account of its importance: unstained by its commerce in all its ramifications, together with every variety of manufactures falls at once, and without a possibility of resuscitation. It is the grand pillar upon which rests the whole civilized world: it is to every other pursuit in life, what the sun is to the planetary system, the light, the heat, and the soul of all, extending its influence, and its support alike to the monarch, and the slave; to the prince, and to the people; to the man of fortune, and to the more humble mechanic; to the man of science, and to him that is ignorant; to the white and the black: to the young and to the old; to the Christian, the Turk, the Jew and the infidel. Instead therefore of being, as is sometimes thought, an humble pursuit, it is in truth, the most noble, by far of all employments; and he who prosecutes it with effect, does more in supporting the honour, the wealth, and the vital strength of his country, than he who harangues from the rostrum, or who bleeds upon the "tented field."

Health and strength are the natural consequences of that degree of exercise, and labour, habits and local situation which pertains to the life of the farmer. Although he may live in princely style, yet he generally lives at home; and the result of this is naturally temperance: his labour and exercise secure him from the painful and disgusting diseases of the rich, and indolent, whilst a "plentiful board" keeps him far removed from the ailments of the indigent. By his local situation he escapes the folly, the bustle, the smoke, and the contagion of the city; whilst he may enjoy "rural retirement, competency, friendship and

books;" he has it in his power to live, as the God of nature designed that he should, happy, free, cheerful, and independent. Independent, he may truly be; on his farm he may be a monarch, and transcendently more free, happy and innocent than any other potentate upon earth. Neither his life, nor fame, are in the hands of a venal, and corrupt ministry, nor does he hold his inheritance by the consent of a factious, turbulent and discontented populace: his revenues depend not on the chances of a precarious commerce, or the whims of a parliament; nor are they extorted by violence and oppression, from a needy and half-famished people; he swallows not in a day the hard earned pittance of a hundred slaves; nor does he at night repose himself upon a bed of down, rendered a bed of thorns, by the curses of a thousand tongues—Removed alike from the cares of the state, and the vanities of the world, he possesses all the sweets of life, whilst the bitter need not reach his cup; he may set under his own "vine, and under his own fig tree, whilst there are none without to make him afraid." From thence, in security, he may view the tumultuous ocean of public life, and public affairs dashing in disorderly waves to the extreme limits of his farm, where he may proudly bid "their waves be stayed, and proceed no farther."

In our country, from the immense quantity of land which yet remains totally, or nearly unoccupied; and from the little knowledge which the proprietors generally have of its real value, it may be purchased for a mere acknowledgment; and this allows every man who chooses to avail himself of the opportunity, to become a land-holder.

The nature and operations of our government are so mild, as scarcely to be felt by the people, whilst the laws of it afford the most ample and secure protection to its citizens, in their persons, their property and their privileges. There is not certainly at this time, and perhaps there never has before been on earth, a country in all respects so desirable, and so perfectly adapted to the safety, the comfort, and the happiness of mankind, as are these United States. I know not, if it be possible to find any real defect in the climate, the soil, or the internal government of this country. That faults are found with all things around us, is certain; yet these exist, perhaps, more in the imaginations of the factious and the discontented, than in reality. Such beings unless their tempers were to undergo a radical change, would be discontented in paradise, if they were there; that they are dissatisfied on earth, is not to be wondered at. Nine-tenths of the evils of life seem to arise from a peevish, restless and unhappy temper, found in man himself. Whether such feelings be at all times subject to the control of man or not, I leave to other inquirers; for myself, I feel persuaded, that there are but a few great and essential ingredients necessary to the cup of man's content on earth. A temper to acquire and enjoy the comforts, and even the luxuries of life, is perhaps all that this country, and government fail to give. And even this temper Heaven has probably placed more certainly than is generally imagined, within the reach of every rational being. If we do not, therefore, feel the enjoyment of it, we should at least do well to be careful how we complain.

At the first settlement of these Atlantic States, land was obtained for a mere trifle; hence individuals were enabled, and the power tempted them to monopolize large tracts. Farming was consequently commenced here upon a large scale; this scale, too, was doubtless much increased by the then infancy of commerce, and the total absence of manufactures; agriculture was at first, certainly the principle, if not the sole object pursued as a business. The soil was then recently cleared, and consequently productive; labour and articles of prime necessity were cheaply obtained; a method of farming was as a matter of course, adapted to these circumstances, and then succeeded. In the course of two centuries, however, great changes have occurred. Our land for the last fifty

years has done little more than starve its proprietors, or driven them to a sale of it. There are now comparatively but few land-holders, at least in this state, who till their own soil; the greater part has long been in the hands of tenants, from whom needy landlords extort enormous rents, and who in return are compelled to torture the last remaining spark of life from the land they occupy, in order to obtain a wretched pittance for themselves and their families. This state of things, as the evil is suffered to progress, must necessarily increase with proportionate rapidity. Already we see crowds of emigrants pressing from the worn out soil of the Atlantic, to the fresh lands of the interior, and western States. The result will be, that these States must be abandoned by the most honest and worthy of their inhabitants, or a total, a radical change must be effected in the management of our land. There are many advantages possessed by these, over the western States, which ought, and which would, if the land was properly managed and improved, induce an emigration to, instead of from them.—And it certainly is of the first importance to those who hold land, or who mean to reside here, that this change should be immediately brought about. It is as imperiously the duty, as it is obviously the interest of every man in these States, who possesses anything which attaches him to his natal soil, to join heartily in the effort of retrieving the credit, the prosperity, and the wealth of his neighbourhood. If every man who is in the possession of land could be persuaded to arouse himself from this fatal lethargy, shake off his antiquated habits, and modes of thinking on the subject of land, and on farming, and do his duty as he ought, he could not fail to be amply compensated for his exertions. As competency really constitutes riches, as riches are desired by all, and as all have it in their power to be rich, it is a strange stupidity in man thus to dream as they were over a mine of wealth, and yet die leaving posterity heirs only to their wretched poverty. I say a mine of wealth, and contend that the expression is far from being an extravagant one. Although many are selling their land at five, ten, fifteen, or twenty dollars per acre, even within the county of New Castle; or are suffering the sheriff to do it for them, at prices perhaps still less; I will boldly hazard the assertion, that every acre of it which is arable, whether it be now rich, or poor, is intrinsically worth five hundred dollars.† Be not startled at the apparent absurdity of this opinion, or by hastily deeming its proof impossible, abandon all further attention to the facts, and reasoning which may follow. I am perfectly aware that in attempting to prove so much, it may be thought impossible, that I should succeed in establishing anything. I do not, however, despair of arresting the attention of some; and am willing to trust much to the sound common sense of the farmer.

In attempting to prove the position, I have taken, I shall assume premises which I trust, and believe will be assented to, without difficulty, by every intelligent man, who has bestowed upon agriculture any part of his attention—it is only in the conclusions, and more especially in the practice to be built upon these conclusions, that I anticipate much hesitation; and here only from the omnipotent power of habit, and erroneous modes of thinking.

The following points must be established, in order to prove the hypothesis advanced—

First. That an acre of land which will yearly, and every year, yield to its proprietor a sum, cleared of all expenses for seed, and cultivation, equal to the legal interest of five hundred dollars, is *bona fide* worth that sum.

Secondly.—that in the articles of culture common to our country, any acre of arable land is capable of being so improved as to insure that product with as much certainty, as any rational man could expect the occurrence of any event beneath the sun. And,

Thirdly.—That this important change may be ef-

fect, and this improvement made, without one cent of actual expense being necessarily incurred.

On the first point, little I think need be advanced, I will however, merely remark, that if a man has in his possession, and belonging to him five hundred dollars in cash he would have little difficulty in admitting, that to him the money is worth that sum; yet it might not be amiss to inquire by what means this is really so.

The thing which we call money, and which all are so extremely solicitous to acquire, is in itself considered, trash, of no real value whatever; it gains its importance only as an article which by common consent, is taken as the representative of property and as a circulating medium, will pass in exchange for any species of property according to its nominal value. It would be useless here to advert to the first origin of money, or to take a view of the manner by which commerce and exchange was carried on before its invention; let it suffice to know, what I trust no man of common sense is ignorant of, that this money kept in the hands of the owner, is of no value to him whatever: if he has his coffers filled with it, except in idea, he might as well, so long as it remains there, have them filled with dirt or blank paper. Acting as a reasonable man might be expected to do, with his surplus money, he vests it in the funds of his country; in private institutions; or he loans it to those who are more needy, on personal or landed security; by law here, and at a fair premium for its use, he can receive but six dollars per annum, for each hundred dollars so vested; and it is then liable to all the casualties incident to a floating, and insecure capital. A thousand accidents may in a moment sweep off the whole of his estate thus held, and leave him but empty coffers, or useless script. Suppose, however, to make the best of it, it should be entirely secure: for every 500 dollars thus held, he receives yearly thirty dollars; which gives in fact the true amount of his estate! or all that can be expended with any prospect of its permanency. Under these circumstances, in relation to a capital held in money, if any man, for every five hundred dollars thus possessed, was offered in lieu of it as many acres of land, each one of which he was satisfied would annually produce him the same clear profit, he would surely be justly pronounced unwise if he refuse to exchange a fluctuating and insecure, for a permanent and secure capital.

That arable land may be made thus productive follows as the next point to be established.

And to those, who have had an opportunity of knowing the full power of land when managed to the best advantage, I anticipate as little difficulty on this, as on the first proposition; although to make the subject clearly comprehensible, it may require more words, and some plain calculations.

If we were about to manage land of the first rate quality, to the best possible advantage for the cultivator, we should not perhaps take the grains and grasses which constitute at present the principal articles of the growth of this county: yet even with these I think the point in question may be made out; and as they are the most familiar, and best understood by our farmers generally I deem it but fair, that the calculations be made upon such principles as will admit of their being analyzed freely, and their errors, if any are found to exist, detected, by every man who may take the trouble to examine the subject.

Corn, potatoes, oats, wheat and grass are the chief articles of culture in our State.

Where any successful effort has been made to improve our soil, I believe it will be readily admitted, that eighty bushels of corn, two hundred bushels of potatoes, eighty bushels of oats, forty bushels of wheat, and two tons of hay, in one season, may be raised upon an acre of land.*

If I was to mention the full quantity of these different articles, which is believed, by those best ac-

* That these quantities can ever be assumed for a general scale of first rate land is much to be doubted; certain spots may be produced in evidence, but even there with Mr. Tilghman, we expect few persons survey their acres. [Edit. Am. Far.]

* The connexions of agriculture, with good government, are too obvious to admit a picture so independent. EDIT. AM. FAR.

† This second definition of the word intrinsic, tho' so short, (\$500 per acre,) will be more difficult than the first, to the comprehension of a large portion of farmers so called.

quainted with the immense power of land, may be produced, I should hazard statements likely to stagger the belief, and exceed all power of comprehension and credibility in the minds of many, who are unfortunately but very little acquainted with this important subject: and as I desire to advance nothing beyond the level of the most ordinary mind, I have been content to take a medium quantity, as the data of calculation. If I thought there were any who would dispute the power of an acre of first rate soil, to produce, under the hands of a careful cultivator, the quantity of grain or grass mentioned, I would refer them to living witnesses for proof; to gentlemen who are known as well for their many amiable qualities in public, and in private life, as for their spirit of improvement, and active enterprise in agriculture: some of these useful and ornamental members of society, are probably known personally to each of us; if not a little inquiry may serve to bring on an acquaintance: and to these, I would refer for a confirmation of my statements upon this part of the subject. The only proof, in fact, of which this point is well susceptible, is to be found either in ocular demonstration, or in a reliance placed upon the assurance of those who have seen the nett proceeds of the first rate land. I know there are many who have been deceived into incorrect conclusions on this point by erroneous reasoning; they have perhaps themselves had, or they have noticed in the possession of others, lots of land which have been deemed as rich as land could well be made; and which have yet on trial fallen far short of yielding the product we have mentioned: to such I would suggest a single fact, by way of caution in this place; a soil to be perfect, *must have depth* as well as quality. We shall have occasion hereafter to notice more fully this most important point, and shall therefore for the present, thus briefly pass it over, remarking only, and I wish this to be carefully remembered, that whenever the term "first rate," is used, it is intended to convey the idea of a rich soil, perfectly adapted to that species of grain or grass, which it is intended to receive, and at least *twelve inches deep*.

Nor need accident, beyond man's control, be at all taken into view, when estimating the proceeds of first rate land. Neither, weather, nor insects here defeat the farmer's expectation. From the present condition of our land, it absolutely requires a concurrence of every favourable incident to allow the farmer sufficient to keep soul and body together. The most trivial accident defeats him utterly. A little too much or too little rain or a degree of heat, or of cold too intense—a few more cut-worms, or Hessian fly than usual, and all is over for the season. These insects, no doubt have had existence ever since the creation: like the buzzard, or vulture, however, they prey not on living carcasses. And if they even did, a part of your corn falling under the one, or of your wheat under the other would do you no injury if your soil possessed its proper strength; a new, and renovated growth would instantly follow; both these insects too, are known to forsake the grain early enough in the spring to allow this second growth, to produce an abundant crop.

Nor need the Stunt, or sedge wheat as it has been called, that worst of all plagues to the slovenly farmer, create any well grounded alarms. It seems certain that this retrograde growth in the wheat crop, is caused by a small insect preying upon its tender roots, and it is equally clear that the germ of this insect is first deposited, in the raw manure of barn or stable yards. When manure is removed from hence, directly upon the ground prepared for wheat, with it is generally removed millions of these insects. And when a spot of ground has once been impregnated with this animal poison, it is long before it can be eradicated. There seems to be some property in lime, destructive of these insects; so far as my own experience has gone or my inquiries have extended, the stunt has never appeared in wheat upon limed land. This may prove an important fact if ascertained to be true; and is doubtless worth an attentive investigation. This evil may however, it appears to me, in the first instance, be totally avoided by a judicious and attentive preparation of manures. The process of

composting crude manures, will, by the heat, and fermentation produced, not only destroy this, but many other equally pernicious properties contained in it, in its raw state.* More of this however, when we come to consider the mode of preparing manures.

* Will it not evaporate some of the best particles, viz. ammonia, &c.—See page 72. *Ed. Am. Far.*
(To be continued.)

From Cobbett's Year's Residence in America.

RURAL SPORTS.

There are persons who question the right of man to pursue and destroy the wild animals, which are called *game*. Such persons, however, claim the right of killing *foxes* and *hawks*; yet these have as much right to live and to follow their food as *pheasants* and *partridges* have. This, therefore, in such persons is *nonsense*.

Others in their mitigated hostility to the sports of the field, say, that it is *wanton* cruelty to shoot or hunt; and that we *kill* animals from the farm yard only because their flesh is *necessary to our own existence*. PROVE THAT. No: you cannot. If you could, it is but the "tyrant's plea;" but you cannot: for we know that men can, and do live without animal food, and live well too, and longer than those who eat it. It comes to this, then, that we kill hogs and oxen because we *choose* to kill them; and, we kill game for precisely the same reason.

A third class of objectors, seeing the weak position of the two former, and still resolved to eat flesh, take their stand upon this ground: that sportsmen send some game off *wounded* and leave them in a *state of suffering*. These gentlemen forget the operations performed upon calves, pigs, lambs and sometimes on poultry. Sir ISAAC COFFIN prides himself upon teaching the English ladies how to make *Turkey Capons*. Only think of the separation of calves, pigs, and lambs, at an early age, from their mothers! Go! you sentimental eaters of veal, sucking pig and lamb, and hear the mournful lowings, whinings, and bleatings; observe the anxious listen, the wistful look, and the dropping tear, of the disconsolate dams; and, then, while you have the carcasses of their young ones under your teeth, cry out (as soon as you can empty your mouths a little) against the *cruelty* of hunting and shooting. Get up from dinner (but take care to stuff well first) and go and drown the puppies of the bitch and the kittens of the cat, lest they should share a little in what the mothers have guarded with so much fidelity; and, as good stuffing may tend to make you restless in the night, order the geese to be picked alive, that, however your consciences may feel, your bed at least, may be easy and soft. Witness all this with your own eyes; and then go weeping to bed, at the possibility of a hare having been terribly frightened without being killed, or of a bird having been left in a thicket with a shot in its body or a fracture in its wing. But, before you go up stairs, give your servant orders to be early at market for fish, fresh out of the water; that is to say, to be *scaled*, or *skinned alive*! A truce with you then, sentimental eaters of flesh; and here I propose the terms of a lasting compro-

mise with you. We must, on each side, yield something: we sportsmen will content ourselves with merely *seeing the hares skip and the birds fly*; and you shall be content with the flesh and fish that come from cases of *natural death*, of which I am sure, your compassionate disposition will not refuse us a trifling allowance.

Nor have even the *Pythagoreans* a much better battery against us. Sir RICHARD PHILLIPS, who once rang a peal in my ears against shooting and hunting, does, indeed, eat neither *flesh*, *fish*, nor *fowl*. His abstinence surpasses that of a Carmelite, while his bulk would not disgrace a Benedictine Monk or a Protestant Dean. But, he forgets, that his *shoes* and *breeches* and *gloves* are made of the skins of animals; he forgets that he *writes*, and very eloquently too, with what has been cruelly taken from a fowl, and that, in order to cover the *books* which he has made and sold, hundreds of flocks and scores of droves must have perished: nay, that to get him his *beaver hat*, a beaver must have been *hunted* and killed, and in the doing of which many beavers may have been *wounded* and left to pine away the rest of their lives; and perhaps many little orphan beavers left to lament the murder of their parents. BEN LEY was the only real and sincere Pythagorean of modern times, that I ever heard of. He protested, not only against eating the flesh of animals, but also against robbing their backs; and, therefore, his dress consisted wholly of *flax*. But even he, like Sir Richard Phillips, ate milk, butter, cheese, and eggs, though this was cruelly robbing hens, cows and calves; and, indeed, causing the murder of the calves. In addition poor BEN forgot the materials of *book-binding*; and, it was well he did; for else, his Bible would have gone into the fire!

Taking it for granted, then, that sportsmen are as good as other folks on the score of *humanity*, the sports of the field, like every thing else done in the fields, tend to produce, or preserve *health*. I prefer them to all other pastime, because they produce *early rising*; because they have no tendency to lead young men into vicious habits. It is where men *congregate*, that the vices haunt. A hunter or a shooter may also be a gambler and a drinker; but he is *less likely* to be fond of the two latter, if he be fond of the former. Boys will take to something, in the way of pastime: and, it is better that they take to that which is innocent, healthy, and manly, than that which is vicious, unhealthy and effeminate. Besides, the scenes of rural sports are necessarily at a *distance from cities and towns*. This is another great consideration; for though great talents are wanted to be employed in the *hives of men*, they are very rarely acquired in those hives: the surrounding objects are too numerous, and too near the eye, too frequently under it, and too artificial.

For these reasons I have always encouraged my sons to pursue these sports. They have, until the age of fourteen or fifteen, spent their time, by day, chiefly amongst horses and dogs, and in the fields and farm-yard; and, their candlelight has been spent chiefly in reading books about hunting and shooting, and about dogs and

horses. I have supplied them plentifully with books and prints relating to these matters. They have drawn horses, dogs, and game themselves. These things, in which they took so deep an interest, not only engaged their attention and wholly kept them from all taste for, and even all knowledge of, cards and other senseless amusements; but, they led them to read and write of their own accord; and, never in my life have I set them a copy in writing nor attempted to teach them a word of reading. They have learnt to read by looking into books about dogs and game; and they have learnt to write by imitating my writing, and by writing endless letters to me, when I have been from home, about their dogs and other rural concerns. While the Borough-tyrants had me in Newgate for two years, with a thousand pounds fine, for having expressed my indignation at their flogging of Englishmen, in the heart of England, under a guard of Hanoverian sabres, I received volumes of letters from my children; and I have them now, from the scrawl at the age of three years, to the neat and beautiful hand of my eldest daughter at thirteen. I never told them of any errors in their letters. All was well. The best evidence of the utility of their writing, and the strongest encouragement to write again, was a very clear answer from me, in a very precise hand, and upon very nice paper, which they never failed promptly to receive. They have all written to me before they could form a single letter. A little bit of paper, with some ink-marks on it, folded up by themselves, and a wafer stuck in it, used to be sent to me, and it was sure to bring the writer a very, very kind answer. Thus have they gone on. So far from being a trouble to me, they have been all pleasure and advantage. For many years they have been so many secretaries. I have dictated scores of Registers to them, which have gone to the press without my ever looking at them. I dictated Registers to my eldest daughter when she was thirteen and to my son William at twelve. They have, as to trust-worthiness, been grown persons, at eleven or twelve. I could leave my house and affairs, the paying of men, or the going from home or business, to them at an age when boys, in England, in general, want servants to watch them, to see that they do not kill chickens, or torment kittens, or set the buildings on fire.

Here is a good deal of boasting; but, it will not be denied, that I have done a great deal in a short public life; and I see no harm in telling my readers of any of the means, that I have employed; especially as I know of few greater misfortunes than that of breeding up things to be school-boys all their lives. It is not, that I have so many wonders of the world: it is that I have pursued a rational plan of education, and one that any man may pursue, if he will, with similar effects. I remembered, too, that I myself had had a sportsman-education. I ran after the hare-hounds at the age of nine or ten. I have many and many a day left the rooks to dig up the wheat and peas, while I followed in the hounds; and have returned home at dark-night, with my legs full of thorns and my belly empty to go supperless to bed, and to congratulate myself if I escaped a flogging. I was sure of these consequences; that had not

the smallest effect in restraining me. All the lectures, all the threats, vanished from my mind in a moment upon hearing the first cry of the hounds, at which my heart used to be ready to bound out of my body. I remembered all this. I traced to this taste my contempt for card-playing and for all childish and effeminate amusements. And, therefore, I resolved to leave the same course freely open to my sons. This is my plan of education: others may follow what plan they please.

This chapter will be a head without a body; for, it will not require much time to give an account of the rural sports in America. The general taste of the country is to kill the things in order to have them to eat, which latter forms no part of the real sportsman's object.

There cannot be said to be any thing here, which we, in England, call hunting. The deer are hunted by dogs, indeed, but the hunters do not follow. They are posted at their several stations to shoot the deer as he passes. This is only one remove from the Indian hunting. I never saw, that I know of, any man that had seen a pack of hounds in America, except those kept by old John Brown in Buck's county, Pennsylvania, who was the only hunting Quaker that I ever heard of, and who was grandfather of the famous General Brown. In short, there is none of what we call hunting; or, so little, that no man can expect to meet with it.

No Coursing. I never saw a gray-hound here. Indeed, there are no hares that have the same manners that ours have, or any thing like their fleetness. The woods, too, or some sort of cover, except in the singular instance of the Plains in this Island, are too near at hand.

But, of shooting, the variety is endless. Pheasants, Partridges, Wood-cocks, Snipes, Grouse, Wild-ducks of many sorts, Teal, Plover, Rabbits.

There is a disagreement between the North and South as to the naming of the two former. North of New Jersey, the Pheasants are called Partridges, and the Partridges are called Quails. To the South of New Jersey, they are called by what I think are their proper names, taking the English names of those birds to be proper. For, Pheasants do not remain in coveys; but mix, like fowls. The intercourse between the males and females is promiscuous, and not by pairs, as in the case of Partridges. And these are the manners of the American Pheasants, which are found by ones, twos, and so on, and never in families, except when young, when, like chickens, they keep with the old hen. The American Partridges are not Quails: because Quails are gregarious. They keep in flocks, like rooks, (called crows in America,) or like larks or starlings; of which the reader will remember a remarkable instance in the history of the migration of those grumbly vagabonds, the Jews, soon after their march from HOREB, when the Quails came and settled upon each other's backs to a height of two cubits, and covered a superficial space of two days' journey in diameter. It is a well known fact, that Quails flock: it is also well known, that Partridges do not, but that they keep in distinct families, which we call coveys, from the French *covée*, which means the eggs or brood which a hen covers at one time. The American Partridges

live in coveys. The cock and hen pair in the spring. They have their brood by sitting alternately on the eggs, just as the English partridges do; the young ones, if none are killed, or die, remain with the old ones till spring; the covey always live within a small distance of the same spot; if frightened into a state of separation, they call to each other and re-assemble; they roost altogether in a round ring, as close as they can sit, the tails inward, and the heads outward; and are, in short, in all their manners, precisely the same as the English partridge, with this exception, that they will sometimes alight on a rail or bough, and that when the hen sits, the cock perched at a little distance, makes a sort of periodical whistle, in a monotonous, but very soft and sweet tone.

The size of the pheasant is about the half of that of the English. The plumage is by no means so beautiful; but, the flesh is far more delicate. The size of the partridge bears about the same proportion. But its plumage is more beautiful than that of the English, and its flesh is more delicate. Both are delightful, though rather difficult shooting. The pheasant does not tower, but darts through the trees; and the partridge does not rise boldly, but darts away at no great height from the ground. Some years they are more abundant than other years. This is an abundant year. There are, perhaps, fifty coveys within half a mile of my house.

The Woodcocks are, in all respects, like those in England, except that they are only about three fifths of the size. They breed here, and are in such numbers, that some men kill twenty brace or more in a day. Their haunts are in marshy places, or woods. The shooting of them lasts from the fourth of July, till the hardish frosts come. The last we killed on the 21st of Nov. so that here are five months of this sport; and, pheasants and partridges are shot from September to April.

The Snipes are called English Snipes, which they resemble in all respects, and are found in great abundance in the usual haunts of Snipes.

The Grouse is precisely like the Scotch Grouse. There is only here and there a place where they are found. But they, are in those places, killed in great quantities, in the fall of the year.

As to Wild-ducks and other water-fowl, which are come at by lying in wait, and killed most frequently swimming, or sitting, they are slaughtered in whole flocks. An American counts the cost of powder and shot. If he is deliberate in every thing else, this habit will hardly forsake him in the act of shooting. When the sentimental flesh eaters hear the report of his gun, they may begin to pull out their white handkerchiefs; for death follows his pull of the trigger, with, perhaps, more certainty than it used to follow the lancet of Doctor RUSH.

The Plover is a fine bird, and is found in great flocks upon the plains, and in the cultivated fields of this Island, and at a mile from my house. Plovers are very shy and wary; but they have ingenious enemies to deal with. A wagon or carriage of some sort is made use of to approach them; and then they are easily killed.

Rabbits are very abundant in some places. They are killed by shooting, for all here is done with the gun. No reliance is placed upon a dog.

As to game laws there are none, except as to the seasons of killing game. People go where they like, and as to wild animals, shoot what they like. There is the Common Law, which forbids trespass, and the Statute Law, I believe, of "malicious trespass," or trespass after warning. And these are more than enough; for nobody, that I ever heard of, warns people off. So that, as far as shooting goes, and that is the sport which is the most general favourite, there never was a more delightful country than this island. The sky is so fair, the soil so dry, the cover so convenient, the game so abundant, and the people, go where you will, so civil, so hospitable and kind. It is very right to take care, by law that wild animals which are useful, shall not be killed but during a certain season, otherwise the breed would be, in a short time, wholly destroyed. Moses forbade those ravenous fellows, the Jews, to kill the hen while she was sitting; and Lent owes its origin to a similar motive. It is that season of the year when almost all animals breed; and forty days of respite just then were of great consequence, in countries where food was liable to fall short occasionally. The institution was purely political as well as fish-eating; though Priests have made them religious.

KITCHEN GARDEN FOR APRIL.

From the American Gardener, published by J. Milligan.

Peas.

Twice or three times this month sow peas as directed in March, to keep up a succession of crops. Earth up peas that have been sown previous to this time, so soon as they are two or three inches above ground, and do this when the ground is dry. Stick those that have got five or six inches high. Marrowfats and other large peas will require sticks six or eight feet high, but sticks five feet high are sufficient for the smaller kinds. Spanish morottos, rouncivils, prussians, green and white, marrowfats and other large late peas are the kinds to sow this month, and must be in rows four to five feet apart.

Snap Beans and Lima Beans.

This is a good time to plant snap beans; the best kinds for this month are red dwarfs, saddle strap runners, red runners, &c. Plant them in drills an inch deep, two or three feet asunder, drop the beans a couple of inches apart, and cover up the drills. The former are dwarfs, the latter will require sticks to climb upon. Sow Lima beans in hills four or five feet apart, three beans in each hill with room for a stake in the middle.

Carrots and Parsnips.

If not sown before, sow them early this month as directed in February and March.

Nasturtiums.

Sow seed in rich light earth, in drills an inch deep, and about a yard apart, sow the seeds a

couple of inches apart, and cover them up; couple of inches deep; or sow in hills three feet apart, three seeds in each hill, having a space in the middle for a stake.

Plant Sweet and Pot Herbs.

Plant young sprouts of mint with roots to them as directed last month; or take young sprouts about sixteen inches long, cut them into lengths of five inches, plant them four inches apart in rows six inches asunder, and water them well. Plant tansey, sorrell, tarragon, chives, chamomile, balm, penny royal, where they are to remain, about eight inches apart; choose slips of last year's growth.

Plant sage, marjorum, savory, hysop, thyme, rue, rosemary and lavender, in shady borders; choose slips of last year's growth, six or eight inches long, and plant them four to six inches apart, putting them half way in the ground, and watering them well. Next spring they may be taken up and planted in beds or rows about a foot asunder.

Cauliflowers.

The strongest plants from seed sown early this spring, may be planted out where they are to remain; do this the latter end of this month; the weak plants may remain till the first of June.

Plants from seed sown last month may be pricked (three inches apart) into nursery beds latter end of this month, watering them well; the ground should be previously well dunged and dug. In dry weather water them twice or thrice a week.

Leeks and Onions.

If you neglected to sow these seeds last month, do it early this month (see directions in March.)

Celery.

Plants from seeds sown in February and early in March, may be pricked out into nursery beds of rich light earth; place them about three inches apart: in about five weeks they will be fit to take up and plant in trenches.

Sow celery this month on a bed of rich light earth well dug and raked; sow the seed pretty thick, rake it in, and water it lightly in dry weather; watering must be continued after the plants come up.

Cabbages and Savoy.

This is a proper time to transplant early cabbage and savoy that were sown this spring; plant them about two feet apart. Earth up those that have been transplanted.

Radishes.

Sow salmon and short top radishes two or three times this month, for a succession of crops; sow the seed on the surface and rake it in. Weed your early radishes, and thin them so as to stand two or three inches asunder, and water them often in dry weather. Turnip rooted radishes may be sown in moist ground. When the leaves are an inch broad, thin them and weed them. Transplant radishes for raising seed as directed in May.

Lettuces.

Dig beds, a spade deep, in an open situation, the earth rich; sow the seeds on the surface and rake them in. The best for this month are grand admirable cabbage; also imperial and cilia; you may sow two or three times this

month. Transplant the lettuces that were sown heretofore into rich earth well dug and raked; place them about ten inches apart, water them immediately, and in dry weather they will require water often till well rooted in the earth. Draw the young plants from seed beds or nursery beds in such a manner as to leave the others at equal distances.

Cucumbers.

Plant cucumbers any time this month in open ground, in hills of rich light earth about four feet apart, each hill containing about half a bushel of earth; put five or six seeds in each hill, covering them an inch deep; when the plants appear above ground, a yellow insect is often destructive to them; they must be killed by hand, or on large plantations of cucumbers they may be nearly destroyed by spreading soot, wood ashes, or unslacked lime thinly over the plants in the morning before the dew goes off.

Melons.

At a great distance from gourds, pumpkins, &c. plant melon seed at least three years old, on beds about six feet wide, which must be previously prepared by bringing a mixture of new earth and rotten dung; this must be well dug into the ground, the length of the bed right along the middle of it; stretch your line along the middle of the bed, and plant your seeds about three feet apart, four or five seeds together, an inch deep. The best kinds are the diarbeker, nutmeg, romana, minorca, green flesh, pine apple, large cantalope, &c. Destroy insects when the plants appear. See cucumbers in April.

Water Melons.

Plant water melons in good light ground, in hills ten feet apart; the hills must be prepared with old ashes, rotten dung or new earth, and be as large as a bushel; sow three or four seeds in each hill, an inch deep, and keep the ground clear from weeds with a hoe, spade or plough; destroy insects when the plants appear. See cucumbers this month.

Squashes and Simblins.

Plant squashes and simblins in hills, large as half a bushel each, four feet apart; choose light soil, put three or four seeds in each hill half an inch deep, and when the plants appear, destroy the insects which generally infest the young plants; it may be done by strewing soot, wood ashes or unslacked lime (in powder) over the plants when wet with dew.

Pumpkins and Gourds.

Plant pumpkins and gourds in hills of rich earth about a bushel each, and ten feet apart; put two or three seeds in each hill two inches deep. When plants come up destroy the insects on them as directed for squashes and simblins. The farina of these, and plants of the like nature, injure melons if they grow near each other.

Ockra Beans.

Plant ockra beans in drills three feet apart, drop three or four seeds in the drills, on spots twelve inches asunder, and cover them up. When the plants appear two or three inches above ground, thin them, leaving the best plant on each spot.

No. II.

OF A SERIES OF PAPERS COMMUNICATED FOR THE FARMER.

By GEORGE W. JEFFREYS, Esquire,
OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Woodville, Culpeper County, (Virg.) Sept. 14th, 1818.

DEAR SIR,—Your communication dated the 25th ult. has lately been received, requesting information on the practice of agriculture, in this county. With an ardent desire for the advancement of knowledge in the cultivation of the soil, the most necessary and the most interesting of all human pursuits; I shall comply with your request, as far as my limited experience and observation, and my feeble abilities will admit. I regret, however, that I shall be so little able to do justice to the subject.

I rejoice to learn, that societies, such as that to which you belong, are forming, and that its members feel the importance of introducing an improved system of agriculture. The period has indeed arrived in the United States, particularly in that part east of the Blue Ridge: when the cultivators of the soil, should begin to preserve their remaining wood land, and improve that, which has been cut down and exhausted. The necessity of such a course has been but little attended to in this state, and from your remarks, perhaps as little so in yours. From the exertions of such societies, however, a spirit may be aroused, which may be productive of much good. You observed, that you had been informed, that considerable improvements have been made in this county; and, that from a detailed statement of the operations on my farm, you expected to receive some hints, that might be useful to your society. I am not aware, from what source, your information was derived, but I feel confident that from the pen of a plain farmer, forced by necessity to change a bad system of culture, that but little light can be afforded to the subject. With pleasure however, I will render all the service in my power.

By a mode of cultivation, the reverse of what was formerly practised, the products of the soil have been greatly increased in this section of country. This improvement in agriculture was brought about by a state of things, similar to that you mention as existing with you. The previous modes were not only unprofitable to the cultivators, but highly destructive to the soil itself. Tobacco was followed by Indian corn, wheat succeeded, repeated crops of corn and wheat followed, till the soil was exhausted, and more woodland was cleared to supply the loss, till there was but little more timber to spare. It became apparent to reflecting minds, that this course of cultivation could not long continue, and unless a change was effected, that and emigration to the fertile lands of the west, could only save them from extreme poverty.

Such was the situation of my farm in common with my neighbours, when about fourteen years since, I commenced a system, which though it may have many objections, has been of infinite advantage to me. Before I proceed to give you a sketch of that system, it will be proper to give you an idea of the country, where it is practised. The Blue Ridge runs the whole length of this state and bounds the county of Culpeper, a considerable distance on its northwestern side. For about thirty miles below the ridge, the land is considerably uneven, broken here and there with small mountains, and though not rich, yet well repays the cultivator for his industry. In this section of country I reside, and my remarks are intended to apply to that section only, with which I am well acquainted. I will here observe, that the impoverishment of the soil, was here rapidly hastened by the wretched mode of cultivating Indian corn. Notwithstanding the unevenness of the land, it was the universal custom to plough shallow up and down the hills, and thus exposed, the soil was inevitably washed away in large quantities by every hard rain, which fell during the season of cultivation.

I commenced by dividing my farm into four fields or shifts; one of these I put in Indian corn each year. With this system I commenced deep ploughing, which could only be done on this uneven surface, by ploughing round the hills, as nearly in a horizontal direction, as the situation would admit. This mode of ploughing possesses advantages, which do not appear at first

sight. By ploughing round a hill, the friction against the mould board is considerably less, and consequently favoured by the descent, a greater turf may be turned than the plough will cut, and with more ease than on a level. The land being well broken in the spring, the corn is planted in nearly a similar manner, by rows listed horizontally to suit the shape of the hills. There are but few situations in this section of country, that will admit of cross ploughing in the cultivation of Indian corn, without great danger from severe washing rains. This system did not obtain general use for some time in this neighbourhood, under the supposition that it required more hoe work than the old mode, but this objection has nearly ceased, as it satisfactorily appears, that the additional quantity of hoe work required, is very small, and the advantage arising from washings being thereby prevented, is great indeed. This mode of cultivating corn, I understand, is extensively practised in the county of Albemarle, Virginia, where it was first introduced by Col. Thomas M. Randolph, at no distant period; as I never heard of it in that county, till long since I practised it on my own farm; and it is really surprising that the necessity of such a method did not sooner appear, and obtain general use. My mode of planting corn, is somewhat singular. The land, after being well broken with barshare ploughs, is listed in the horizontal manner, I have before mentioned, and in doing this some judgment and experience are necessary to lay it off in the best possible manner, so as to avoid every direction that would tend to convey the water, so as to be liable to wash. Each hoer is accompanied by a small boy with a basket of corn, soaked and well rolled in plaster of paris. The hoer then opens a small hole in the list, (or where the land is well broken a small single furrow answers very well) the boy that accompanies him throws in the corn, and it is immediately covered; another hole is then made at a proper distance which the hoer will soon learn to judge of, by a measure on the hoe-helve, the boy throws in the corn, it is quickly covered; and so they proceed. This method may seem tedious, but in practice I have found that corn can be planted in as short a time, as in any other way. The crossing of the lists is saved, and this saving makes up for the difference, if any in planting in the usual way.

After planting the corn, I seldom interrupt it till the first of June, unless to harrow down the clods, not yet dissolved after the spring ploughing; or to chop down bushes, not cut by the plough. Land, well broken in the spring, does not require the corn to be cultivated sooner in this climate. In tending the corn, I use what we call shovel ploughs, without coulters, which are immediately followed by harrows, which lay the surface level, and lessens the danger from heavy washing rains. I have often remarked, that on land levelled by the harrow, large quantities of water in heavy rains will spread over the surface, without carrying off the soil, which would have certainly been the case, had the surface been left uneven after the ploughing.

I never plough my corn more than twice, followed then by the harrow, and often but once, with an additional dressing with cultivating harrows alone. These last have broad teeth somewhat in the shape of grubbing hoes, and are of essential service in a light soil, with but little stone. For several years past I have been in the habit of using single coulters, fixed to plough stocks, instead of the plough in cultivating corn, and by following with the harrow, the soil is completely pulverized, without exposing it to the powerful action of the sun. The draft is also less, and when the corn is not grassy, I would strongly recommend their use in preference to the plough or cultivator. There is another advantage in the horizontal cultivation of corn; when rain falls it does not run off so rapidly, but soaks into the soil on the level above each row, and is there longer retained, and, consequently, the crop is less liable to injury from drought than that planted in the usual way, where the water quickly passes off down the rows.

The advantages of plaster of paris as a manure, are no longer considered doubtful in this section of country. It is almost universally used in corn crops, as in these its effects are speedy and profitable. It

operates on all kinds of soil here, almost equally well, but in what way, is not so easy to tell. It is also generally used on red clover, and its effect on this grass may be considered as the greatest means of improvement, in this section of country. The land on which Indian corn is raised, is sown down in wheat or rye, and in the succeeding spring it should be sown in red clover. The proper time for sowing clover seed depends much on the season. Clover is liable to be destroyed while young, by severe cold, by insects, and warm dry weather; there is, however, more to fear from warm drought, than from cold. From experience, I am satisfied, that the best time for sowing, is when the earth is open by frost, and before rain settles it. But the advantages of clover for pasturage, and as a means of fertilization, depend mostly on the effects produced on it by plaster of paris. These are indeed very great, and I much doubt whether it were not better to sow plaster on land not exhausted, for pasturage than to sow clover seed without plaster.—In the first instance, a luxuriant crop of white clover will spring up; in the next case, clover will flourish in few situations. But with a dressing of half a bushel or a bushel of plaster per acre, most soils will here produce a most luxuriant crop. For pasturage, we have no grass that can be compared with it, and a light dressing of plaster the second year after it is sown, will be of great service. As pasturage, it is equally advantageous to horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, except that the second crop causes horses to slaver very much. To no kind of stock is it more serviceable, than to hogs.—Where there is plenty of clover, it is seldom necessary to feed hogs from May till October; and in a good clover field, they will thrive faster than on corn. In the raising of hogs it is important, that they should be always kept growing, and this is cheaper and better done in a field of clover, than in any other way that has come under my notice. Distillers in this section of country, who generally turn their attention much to the raising of hogs, cultivate clover as the principal support of their large stocks in the warm season. Hogs are apt to keep so fat on clover, that it is frequently difficult to rear pigs on that account. I have hitherto sowed my wheat, principally after corn, and I have generally succeeded pretty well. But after great crops of corn, which under the system I have practised, my land now generally produces, I find that very large crops of wheat, cannot reasonably be expected.

I have lately began in addition, to sow wheat on clover lays. This has been considerably practised in my neighbourhood, and with a success highly gratifying. We follow our clover land for wheat in August and September. We use no cross ploughing; but with large harrows, the soil is pulverized, the wheat sown and then harrowed or ploughed in, late in September. The late ravages of the Hessian Fly, make it unsafe to sow earlier. The experience of this section of country, is much in favour of following clover land for wheat at this season. It is a season of more leisure, and the product is greater, than on land fallowed in the spring and crossed afterward. In ploughing land, if the improvement of the soil be an essential object, and this should be the object of every farmer, the greater the growth of vegetable matter ploughed in, the greater will be the improvement of the soil; but experience favours the belief, that wheat will succeed better after the turning over a bare sward of grass, than of the most luxuriant crop. This is a subject that well deserves the attention of the agriculturist, and I merely throw out the hint, as worthy of notice.

As I observed before, my farm is divided into four shifts. Perhaps where putting in wheat on clover lays is much practised, five would be better; the size of my farm, however, does not admit it; but under the system I have mentioned of cultivating my land, once in four years in corn, and following with wheat and clover, my farm has greatly improved. On land which, when I commenced the system was scarcely worth cultivating; I have for eight or nine years averaged nearly six barrels of corn to the acre; and the two last seasons, which have been very favourable, I shall have averaged, at least, nine barrels per acre.—Wheat on corn land, has produced from ten to twenty bushels; after sowing crops of corn, the best wheat succeeds. On good land fallowed in August and Sep-

tember, from fifteen to twenty-five bushels may be expected.

You ask is deep ploughing much practised, and what are its advantages. Deep ploughing is becoming much more general every day, and this is greatly facilitated by the use of cast iron mould boards, which are now generally used here. By a little use they become bright and smooth, the obstruction is consequently less, and deep ploughing is more easy. The advantages of deep ploughing in corn crops, are very great. The deeper the soil is ploughed the greater may be the quantity of corn planted on an acre, or any given quantity, and the crop thereby greatly increased. At the commencement of my system of farming my corn was planted about six feet by three. I now plant it on the same land, five feet by two, in many places nearer, with two stalks in a hill, being nearly as close as formerly, and the crops are nearly in the same proportion.

I have already stated my impression, that as a means of improving the soil, and for pasturage, that red clover is superior to any other grass amongst us. On this, with plaster of paris, we principally rely for fertilizing our land, when aided by deep ploughing. But much may be and ought to be done, by a careful attention to making and applying manure. In addition to manure from my stable, I pound my cattle near my stack yard, adjoining a row of pens, in which wheat straw is nicely stacked up, so that the cattle can eat as much as they choose, and frequently straw and corn husks, are spread over the pound, and after being picked over by the stock, are trodden down and incorporated with the other manure, and add greatly to its quantity. I have also for a few years past, drawn a considerable quantity of corn stocks to the same place, which are also picked, then trodden to pieces, and converted to manure in the same way; and I am strongly of opinion that as materials for manure, that corn stalks are greatly superior to wheat straw, were the practice generally adopted, of penning and feeding cattle on exhausted spots of land, after being covered well with corn stalks, they would become productive, sooner than in any other way. The straw of clover, cut for seed, is also an excellent manure, and from some experiments, I am satisfied the same bulk is equal to the best stable manure. The high price of clover seed, makes that article a considerable item in the expenses of a farm: as it is generally necessary for it to be sowed every time after the land is cultivated. For a few years past, I have gathered the heads of clover with a small machine, and sown it in that state. Were farmers to adopt this plan generally, they could gather enough seed, without the necessity of cleaning it, which requires much labour. The machine, I mentioned, is a box like frame about 4 feet wide, 5 feet long, and 1 foot deep, open before with a comb of wood, iron or steel attached to the floor of the box, with teeth about twelve inches long. This frame is fixed upon two small wheels, with a handle behind to elevate or depress the comb, agreeable to the height of the clover. A horse is harnessed before the comb, and the frame is drawn along, taking off the heads of the clover in its progress.

Though red clover is preferable for pasture to any grass we have, yet I do not think it possesses those advantages for hay. It is very apt to fall before it is fit to cut, to the injury of the hay; it is difficult to cure well, and easy to break and waste after being cured, and when cured, the hay is not heavy. All kinds of stock however, are extremely partial to it. When sown with orchard grass, they form I believe, the best upland crop for hay. These two produce a heavy crop in good upland, are easily cured, and stock are as partial to the hay as to that of clover alone. But for hay, timothy is much to be preferred on a level clayey soil without sand. In this section the crops of hay produced from it, are greater than from any other grass, and in quality inferior to none.

The effect of plaster of paris, on the soils here, where it has been used, is not very discernable. I am, however, induced to believe that it gradually stiffens the soil, which is here light and friable, thereby rendering it better for wheat; but this is only conjecture: time and greater observation are necessary to establish this opinion. We know that plaster of

paris, operates as a most powerful manure, and without knowing the precise manner in which it operates, we continue its use as a great means of fertilization.

Since the introduction of clover and plaster, the cut worm has sometimes been very destructive to the corn in the spring, particularly in cold seasons. Several experiments have been made, which go to prove that by planting corn in land well broken the preceding fall, their ravages will be mostly prevented. By ploughing in the fall, the insects are exposed to the frost of winter, and perish before the corn is planted. Before I close, I will mention a little experiment I made a year or two since. It is generally seen that corn, wheat, or any other crop will not flourish near a fence of woods; and that for a considerable distance, nothing of importance will grow. Impressed with the belief that the land adjoining the woods, was exhausted by the roots of the trees, and that the crop was seldom injured by the shade alone, I cut a ditch, on the east side of a piece of tall woods, deep enough to cut all the horizontal roots, and several hundred yards long; and I have been gratified to observe that the product of the field was as good up to the very bank of the ditch, as in any other part of the field, though it was shaded near half of the day. I am so well satisfied with the result of this experiment, that I shall repeat it in every situation that may require it.

I have thus endeavoured in my poor way to give you all the information in my power on the points requested, though without system and unconnected. Wishing your society success in the objects of their pursuit, and hoping that you may render service to the agricultural interest, I am with respect,

Sir, your humble servant,

JOHN S. SLAUGHTER.

GEO. W. JEFFREYS, Esq.

Calvert County, Jan. 3, 1820.

Mr. SKINNER—I want to say something to you about a plant we have in the garden, I think it may be called an evergreen, the English mustard I mean, it is neither the white nor black mustard; it has black seed, and a yellowish green leaf; it is at this time about a foot high, and as broad as my hand; sowed 22d of September; the ground is entirely covered. I think it will keep the ground quite warm all winter, and if turned in the spring, will be an excellent manure, besides eating of it as a boiled salad if we choose it.*

* The Editor hopes the writer will save a quantity of seed and make further experiments; its hardness must give it a great value.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1820.

TO ADVERTISERS IN THE FARMER.

To advertise a machine, or implement, or seed, &c. and the prices of which are fixed—and yet not to mention the price; instead of conveying information to the farmer, rather serves to perplex him. When he sees some new thing advertised and highly recommended, he naturally wishes to know *how much it will cost him*; and the Editor of the Farmer, much as he is always occupied, is often under the necessity of making the inquiry for some of his subscribers.

This therefore is to make it known, that, hereafter, no advertisement will be inserted in the Farmer, unless it state the *prices* of the things advertised, if they consist of such things as in their nature will admit of it.

☞ All Post-masters in the United States, at whose office this paper is received, are earnestly and respectfully requested to send back all American Farmers not taken from their office by the persons to whom they are addressed, with a memorandum as to the cause if known, and as this paper may not be read by many Post-masters, our subscribers are requested to do us the favour to mention this at the Post-offices respectively, where they receive their papers.

☞ A single number would sometimes be worth \$4 to the Editor, as it would enable him to complete files that would otherwise be useless, and for which when completed there is a pressing demand.

☞ In the communication by Judge Holmes, vol. I. page 411, for *pip*, read *gapes*, throughout.

When gentlemen high in station and talents, give their reflections to the publick on the humblest branches of agricultural economy, these subjects must soon acquire that degree of dignity and attraction to which they are entitled, by their real importance, as connected with our domestic comforts.

☞ Since the paper is made up—we feel mortified at its want of variety; we have now, however, dispatched the heavy subject of Gardening. Though we shall, from time to time, give essays on *particular subjects* of Horticulture.

☞ The article on Rural Sports, it was not supposed when we gave it out to the printer, would occupy so much space—we sometimes make selections of this sort, which though not immediately connected with agriculture, still they are of solid and useful character, conveying good hints on morals, education, &c. &c. We have long been of opinion that children, instead of being restrained too much, as they often are, *especially in Town*—ought to be indulged, and, as far as convenient, furnished with the means of exercising in all manly amusements—such as skating, hunting, shooting, racing, &c. There is a “time for all things,” and “too much work makes Jack a dull boy.” It is true, that accidents will sometimes occur—one fine boy in many thousands may perchance get shot or drowned, and so if kept under his mother’s petticoats, he may perchance get choaked with a fish bone, or fall into the fire, and get burned to death.

Frisking abroad in the open fields, enlivens the imagination, gives vigour to the body, and strength to the mind, and above all, it leaves no time or inclination for drinking, gaming, and other low vulgar and degrading associations and amusements so called.

The next number of the Farmer will contain a valuable, and to us costly engraving, to show the best mode of cultivating turnips.—We have several engravings, and very many able communications on hand.

Present Prices of Country Produce in this Market.

Actual sales of WHEAT—Red, per bushel, 90 to 93 cts.—White, do, 95 cts.—Corn, white, 51 to 53 cts.—Yellow do. 52 cts.—Red Clover Seed, per bushel \$ 10 White do. \$ 15—Timothy, \$ 5—Orchard Grass, \$ 3 Butter 25 cts—Eggs, 18½ cts—Beef, prime pieces, 10 cts.—Mutton, 6 to 8 cts—Potatoes, per bushel 50 cts. Onions, 75 cts—Maryland Tobacco, Three hogsheads, wagon, sold on Wednesday last, for \$ 16.50.—No sales of Virginia Tobacco—Flour, from the wagons \$ 4 25. Whisky from do. 26 cts—Hay, \$ 16 to 18—Straw, 9 to \$ 11—North Carolina Staples, Turpentine, soft, \$ 2.25—Black-Eyed Peas, 65 to 70 cts—Pork, hog round, 8 to 10 cts—Other articles, same as last report.

PRICES CURRENT

AT BALTIMORE:

Carefully revised and corrected every Thursday.

ARTICLES.	PER	RETAIL PRICES.
BEEF, Northern mess	bbl.	15
No. 1. - } wholesale.	12½	
No. 2. - }	10½	
Bacon, - - - - -	lb.	16
Butter, Firkin, wholesale. - - -		18
Coffee, first quality, - - -		33
second do. - - -		27
Cotton, - - - - -		17
Twist, No. 5, - - -	41	45
No. 6 a 10, - - -	46	50
No. 11 a 20, - - -	53	
No. 20 a 30, - - -	75	
Chocolate, No. 1, - - -	33	
No. 2, - - -	28	
No. 3, - - -	25	
Candles, mould - - -	box	20
dip, - - -		18
spermaceti, - - -		45 scarce.
Cheese, American, - - -	lb.	10
Feathers, - - - - -		60
Fish, cod, dry, - - -	qtl.	3 50
herrings, Susquehannah, - - -	bbl.	ol. 2 50 3 new
mackerel, No. 1 a 3, - - -		6 9
shad, trimmed, - - -		7 75 7 87
Flour, superfine, - - -		5 50 6
fine, - - -		5 50 5 50
middlings, - - -		4 50 5
rye, - - -		4 a 4 25
Flaxseed, rough, - - -	cask	none.
cleaned, - - -	bush	do.
Flax, - - - - -	lb.	do.
Hides, dried, - - -		12 15
Hog's lard, - - -		12 13
Leather, soal, - - -		25 30
Molasses, Havanna, - - -	gal.	45 50
New Orleans, - - -		50 60
sugar house, - - -		1
Oil, spermaceti, - - -		1 50
PORK, mess or 1st quality, - - -	bbl.	18 a 19
prime 2d do. - - -		15 a 16
cargo 3d do. - - -		14 a 15
Plaster, - - - - -	ton	5
ground - - - - -	bbl.	1 75
Rice, - - - - -	lb.	6
SPIRITS, Brandy, French, 4th proof	gal.	2 2 50
peach, 4th proof - - -		1 25 1 50
apple, 1st proof - - -		75
Gin, Holland, 1st proof - - -		1 25 1 50
do. 4th proof - - -		
do. N. England - - -		50 60
Rum, Jamaica, - - -		1 50 2
American, 1st proof - - -		50 60
Whiskey, 1st proof - - -		35 40
Soap, American, white, - - -	lb.	18 20
do. brown, - - -		9 12
Sugars, Havanna, white, - - -		19
brown, N. Orleans, - - -		11 12
loaf, - - -		25 28
lump, - - -		20 a 25
Salt, St. Ubes, - - -	bush	70
Liverpool, ground, - - -		75 1
Shot, all sizes, - - -	lb.	12
TOBACCO, Virginia fat, - - -	cwt.	7
do. middlings, - - -		6 50
Rappahannock, - - -		5 5 50
Kentucky, - - -		6 50 7 50
small twist, manufactured, lb.		25 37
pound do. - - -		50 75
TEAS, Bohea, - - -		63
Souchong, - - -		75 a 100
Hyson Skin, - - -		75 a 150
Young Hyson, - - -		1 25 a 150
Imperial, - - -		1 75
WOOL, Merino, clean, - - -		80
unwashed, - - -		40
crossed, clean, - - -		65
unwashed, - - -		35
common country, clean, - - -		37
unwashed, - - -		25
skinner's - - -		33

Peach Blossom, Dorchester County,

March, 5th, 1820.

MR SKINNER—Observing a piece in your paper last Spring,* respecting ringing of fruit trees, I tried the experiment, agreeable to the mode recommended, on apples, peaches, pears, and quinces, on small limbs, say from an inch to an inch and a quarter in diameter. I was dubious of trying it on the bodies of trees, for fear of killing them.

The result was, the apples, peaches and pears, were double the size on those branches, than any other part of the trees, the quinces there were no difference. One peach, the Heath, measured, on a ringed limb, in circumference, 11½ inches round, and 11½ inches round the ends, and weighed 15 ounces. The limbs above the ring, have grown much larger than they are below it.

THOS. ENNALLS.

* For particular directions, see vol. i. p. 11.

P. S. I see an inquiry for the Spanish chestnut in the Farmer—my neighbour E. I. Du Pont has a few grafts set and growing. I think in the common chestnut stocks—when I saw they looked thrifty.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Remarks on the Management of Sheep—on sowing Plaster—pointing out some errors in the proceedings of Agricultural Societies.

MR. SKINNER—I have derived much satisfaction and instruction from the perusal of the American Farmer, and have no doubt it will essentially promote the science of Agriculture.

I find an opinion expressed in the 43d number, in an article entitled "Five minutes Reflection on Sheep," which, although it may be in part correct, I think is not sufficient to induce a departure from the usual mode, of washing the wool of the sheep: For, although it may prove injurious in a few instances, my experience has taught me, that if the weather be suitable, little danger is to be apprehended; and those who have been accustomed to handle wool will readily discover the difference between that which has been washed before, and that cleansed after shearing. The latter, however fine, will be deficient in that softness, which the other possess. No oil can effectually supply the place of that which rises from the animal into the wool, if left on him 6 or 8 days after washing. This natural grease or yolk renders it stronger, and consequently it may be spun finer—and the farmer is benefited by the increase weight. If the sheep are kept in a clean pasture after washing, the wool may be preserved clean.

My remarks will only apply to those sheep, whose wool may be made clean on them, which is generally the case with ½ bloods and under.

I have seen no remarks, relative to sowing plaster on sward, designed to be broken up for wheat.

In this neighbourhood we deem it of great importance. I reside within 2 miles of the largest body of gypsum yet discovered in the United States. We therefore, make free use of it. A respectable Farmer in my neighbourhood who annually sows about 1½ bushels of plaster per acre, on all his grass land; is of the opinion, that his wheat crops are greatly benefited by plaster applied to the sward. He obtained a premium for wheat last season, and has assured me, that 8 acres averaged 46 bushels, per acre, and that the rest of his crop was very little inferior.

We derive great benefit from soaking our seed in brine, and rolling it in plaster or lime.

It may be proper to add, that our soil is calcareous. I am glad to discover, by the formation of agricultural societies, in several of the states, that the public are convinced of the necessity of giving more attention to this important subject. But it is to be lamented, that the proceedings of many of these associations, should be marked with so little of that simplicity and economy, which become the American Farmer. Many sober people of different sects, who would be useful in these associations, decline to become members of them, because they cannot, without an abandonment of principle, conform to the manner of conducting many of the agricultural exhibitions.

Thy respectful friend,

WILLIAM S. BURLING.

Union Springs, Cayuga County, N. Y. }
3mo. 24th. 1820. }

Valuable Property for Sale.

The subscriber offers for sale his property in Aurelius, Cayuga county, New York, embracing a considerable part of the flourishing village of Union Springs, pleasantly situated on the east bank of Cayuga Lake—consisting of an excellent GRIST MILL, 3½ stories high, with 2 runs of stones, built in 1814, with bevel cast iron Geer, and furnished with rolling Screen, Smut machine, &c.

140 acres of Land, exceeded by none in the country, 80 of it in a high state of cultivation, on which was built last year 160 rods of board fence, with cedar posts. The other fences are of white oak rails. The residue of the land is covered with White Oak Timber.

Five good frame DWELLING HOUSES, one of which is large, and occupied as an Inn, with convenient Sheds, Stables, &c.

Two good BARNs, and a number of valuable VILLAGE LOTS.

The advantages attending this property are many and rarely to be found. The stream is from springs, which rise in the pond, and never fail. The mill is never obstructed by ice, nor liable to be injured by freshets. It lies in the centre of a numerous and increasing population. It commands a very extensive custom, especially in dry seasons, there being no other durable stream within a circuit of 20 miles. It is situated near the bank of the lake, to which a canal has been cut from the mill, so that boats from the lake come up to the mill. In the Spring of the year boats carrying 140 bls. flour load at the mill door, and deliver their cargoes at Schenectady; and the middle section of the Grand Canal being completed, the expense of transportation is much reduced, and will be more so, when the eastern section is finished.

The land on both sides of the lake, is considered equal to any in the western district, especially for Wheat.

A valuable Limestone quarry, and an extensive bed of Marl, have been opened on this property.

Immediate possession may be had—apply to the subscriber on the premises, who would receive good lands in Ohio, or Indiana in part payment.

W. S. BURLING.

Union Springs 3d. mo. 1820.

BALTIMORE,

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY,

BY JOHN S. SKINNER, EDITOR.